

CASTLEMAINE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

NEWS SHEET APRIL 1976 NUMBER 1

President: Mr R. Bradfield

Secretary: Mrs R. Mills

Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove

General meetings on the third Wednesday of the month in the Castlemaine Education Centre (21 Mostyn St) at 8.00 pm.

April Meeting April 21st.

Speaker will be Mr A. Hartup - subject is "Local Birds and Flowers"

April Excursion will be to Bells Swamp, on the Dunolly road. Meet at the Education Centre at 1.30 on Sunday 25th April. Subject- swamp plants and water birds.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Financial Receipts (subs) total \$71; expenses to date (secretarial) \$17.48.

Records Officer Mr Winterbottom has been appointed records officer. We hope to develop a card system to record items of interest. Reports and Exhibits It is planned to make members reports and observations an item at each meeting. A table will be set up for exhibits etc.

Members are asked to contribute to both of these.

Committee Meetings To be on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Education Centre.

Committee Members

Vice Presidents: Mr G. Broadway and Mr G. Sitch.

Mr and Mrs M Winterbottom, Miss J. Chapman and Mr E. Perkins.

Subscription

Family: \$5

Single: \$3

Junior/student: \$1

Affiliation The committee suggests that we affiliate at this stage with the Western Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association, and with the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Constitution It is suggested that the following be added to the proposed constitution

2c Add "and environment"

8a Add another sentence: "The executive consists of the five key officers"

News Sheet It was decided to produce a news sheet on trial. Printing costs will be 4 cents a copy. Postage costs would make distribution by post uneconomical. Mr Perkins to produce the sheet.

MAY MEETING will be on Wed 19 May, which will be in the school holidays. It will be a members night- members are invited to contribute e.g. up to a dozen slides, or a short talk.

MAY EXCURSION, Mineral Springs Tour. Leave the Education Centre at 10.30 am on Sunday 23 May.

EXCURSION TO BASALT

The first excursion of the club was to Basalt, in the Daylesford area. Our thanks to Maureen Watts of the Daylesford Save Our Bushland Action Group for leading the excursion.

First stop was along the cemetery road (Eganstown), where we viewed some of the land cleared for pine plantations. We noted the waste timber piled into windrows, and were dismayed to see, in parts, the timber bulldozed into the creek.

Next stop was along Bells Reef Road to view an area thinned of timber. Of interest at this stop was the flat growing grevillea; one of the range of as yet un-named grevilleas growing to the south of Castlemaine. The leaves are much less indented than in some of the other patches of this plant. A few native heath were in flower, and patches of snake wattle (*Acacia aculeatissima*) were noted. Here it is a very low shrub (in some parts of Victoria it is only inches high and may be several yards across).

Next we travelled north to the Werona-Shepherds Flat intersection. Of considerable interest along the road was the changes in Eucalypt trees. In about 10 km we changed from messmate/candlebark forest to broad-leaf peppermint forest to mixed box/stringybark forest. Plant list for the area at the intersection is

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> (Grey box) | <i>Burchardia umbellata</i> (Milkmaids) |
| <i>E. polyanthemos</i> (Red box) | <i>Pimelia linifolia</i> (Rice flower) |
| <i>E. macrorhyncha</i> (Red stringybark) | <i>Dianella revoluta</i> (Flax lily) |
| <i>E. goniocalyx</i> (Long-leaf box) | <i>Tetratheca ciliata</i> (Pink bells) |
| <i>E. melliodora</i> (Yellow box) | <i>Cassinia arcuata</i> (Coffee bush) |
| <i>Acacia armata</i> (Hedge wattle) | <i>Correa reflexa</i> (Common correa) |
| <i>A. acinacea</i> (Gold-dust wattle) | <i>Centaurium pulchellum</i> (Austral centaury) |
| <i>A. dealbata</i> (Silver wattle) | |
| <i>Grevillea alpina</i> (Goldfields) | <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> (Sarsaparilla) |
| <i>Dillwynia retorta</i> (Parrot pea) | <i>Gompholobium hueglei</i> (Karella) |
| <i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i> (Bush pea) | <i>Daviesia virgata</i> (Narrow leaf bitter pea) |
| <i>Sylium graminifolium</i> (Trigger plant) | <i>Lomandra filiformis</i> (Wattle mat-rush) |
| <i>Amyema miquellii</i> (Box mistletoe) | |

The full ten page plant and animal list is available -duplicating cost is 20 cents.

The area is reputed to be an excellent orchid area; a return visit in spring to this area and to the broad-leaf peppermint area should be well worth while.

Fourth stop was back near Eganstown, where we viewed an experimental patch cleared and fenced, ready for pines.

The return trip for most was back through Basalt, so named because of the isolated basalt caps in the area.

WESTERN VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUBS ASSOCIATION

The association meets three times a year. The next meeting is being organised by the Mid-Murray Field Naturalists Trust, and will be held at Wyperfield National Park over the weekend of 24-25 April. Our members have been invited. For details, see our secretary.

PLANTS OF THE CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT Number 1 of a series

The Rough Barked Apple *Angophora floribunda*

I know of only one group of these in the district, planted about 20 metres to the west of the old picnic pavilion in the Castlemaine Gardens.

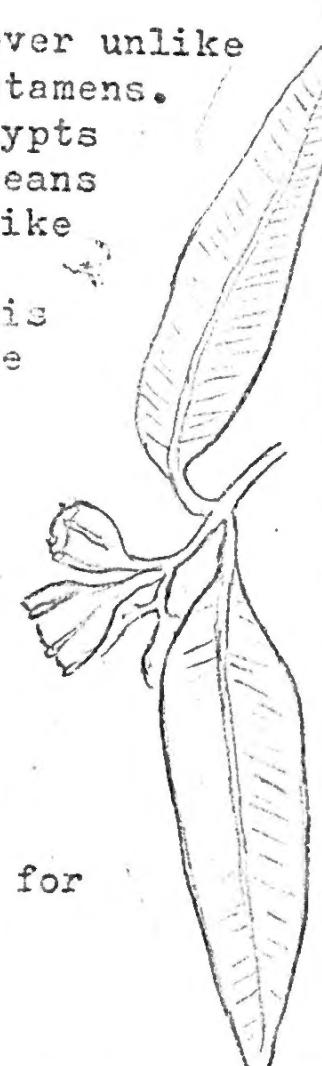
Rough barked apple is a native of the far eastern tip of Victoria around Mallacoota, and extends northwards to NSW and Queensland.

Angophoras could easily be mistaken for eucalypts; however unlike the eucalypts the buds do not have a cap covering the stamens. The angophoras can also be distinguished from the eucalypts by the ribbed and rather papery seed cases (Angophora means vessel-bearer) and (in some species) the stalked, gum-like leaves growing in opposite pairs. The branches of the rough barked apple often grow in a zig-zag fashion - this habit of growth gives a characteristic appearance to the Angophora forests.

It is not at all surprising to find a rough-barked apple growing in a garden with which Baron Von Mueller was associated. They are beautiful trees, and improve with age.

The common name refers to a fancied resemblance of the leaves to those of the apple; and also to distinguish it from the smooth-barked apple (*Angophora costata*)

Angophoras were first classified as *Metrosideros* (a New Zealand group). In the early part of last century they were given the name 'Angophora' and have kept this name for over a century. Recently (1971) Pryor and Johnson have



suggested that the *Angophoras* be classified as *Eucalypts* in view of the similarity with some of the tropical *Eucalypts*.

It will be a pity if this happens, and if this beautiful group of plants lose a separate identity.

ITEMS FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Aboriginal history

A Victorian project has unearthed important new information about early Aborigines.

The new theories follow the first detailed study of Aboriginal mounds which are scattered throughout the Western District.

A study team headed by the State Archaeologist, Dr. Peter Coutts, believes that Western District natives were forced to adopt a completely new life style after the arrival of white settlers.

Dr. Coutts said last night that the Aborigines were forced to move from the mounds where they lived, changing their social and economic structure to take up a more nomadic and less tranquil life.

He said the project was breaking new ground because there was a 20-year "black-out" between the arrival of settlers in the 1820s and the first studies of Aborigines in the 1840s.

Dr. Coutts and his team have excavated four mounds and studied others — some up to 4000 years old.

He said last night that some of the mounds measured 10 metres in diameter and contained up to 700 cubic metres of soil.

"We think that they were built so large to be a status symbol. They would live there and bury their dead there."

"The mounds are really a rather impressive portion of Australia's heritage," he said.

unearthed

THE AGE, Tuesday, April 6

—CASTLEMAINE MAIL, WEDNES., FEB. 11 1976

LAND CONSERVATION ACT 1970 Proposed Investigation of the North Central Area.

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the provisions of the Land Conservation Act 1970, the Land Conservation Council proposes to carry out an investigation in the future for the purposes of making recommendations on the uses of public land within the North Central Area as shown on the map hereunder, in order to provide for the balanced use of land in Victoria.



On completion of this investigation the Council shall publish a report of the investigation and will give notice in the Government Gazette and this newspaper of the publication of the report and indicate where a copy may be inspected or obtained.

At the appropriate time, the Council will invite any person or body to make submissions for the Council's consideration in relation to the use of public land in this area.

All inquiries concerning this investigation should be made direct to the undersigned at the offices of the Council, 464 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, 3004.

I. KUNARATNAM - Secretary.